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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 2860

VIENNA FOR DEA AND FBIS

E.O. 12356: NA  
 TAGS: PREL, PTER, SNAR, BU, US  
 SUBJECT: BULGARIAN REACTION TO LATEST CONGRESSIONAL  
 HEARINGS

1. ON JULY 28 ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS CARRIED A SIGNED COMMENTARY BY BTA "POLITICAL OBSERVER" NENCHO KHRANOV ENTITLED "WHOM DOES THE U.S. ANTI-BULGARIAN CAMPAIGN SERVE"? THE ARTICLE WAS ALSO CARRIED ON THE BTA WIRE JULY 28 (FBIS REPORTED TEXT IN AU271940).
2. KHRANOV CHARACTERIZED THE RECENT HOUSE HEARINGS, AND THE JUNE 28 SENATE AMENDMENT AS BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF "NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES". KHRANOV CRITICIZED THE U.S. POLICY OF DIFFERENTIATION, WHICH HE CHARGED SEEKS TO DISCREDIT THE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES OF BULGARIA. NOT ONLY "PROFESSIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST" SENATOR D'AMATO, BUT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BURT AND DEA'S JOHN LAWN WERE CALLED TO "GIVE SPEECHES FULL OF SLANDERS".
3. HE REITERATED THE USUAL TUNE ON BULGARIA'S HISTORY OF DRUG SEIZURES, CITING THIS YEAR'S MAJOR BUST: JANUARY 18-52.7 HG MORPHINE; MAY 4-29 KG HEROIN; MAY 26-21.3 KG HEROIN; JUNE 13-12 KG HEROIN; JULY 7-10 KG HEROIN. HE ALSO PROVIDED THE USUAL QUOTES FROM U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND FORMER AMBASSADOR PERRY ABOUT BULGARIA'S POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO COMBATTING DRUG SMUGGLING.
4. KHRANOV CONCLUDES THAT WHILE THE ANTI-BULGARIAN CAMPAIGN IS PART OF AN OVERALL STRATEGY TO FREEZE RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA AND TO WORSEN EAST-WEST RELATIONS, HE HOPED THAT THERE ARE REASONABLE PEOPLE IN CONGRESS WHO WILL SEE THE TRUTH.

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5. OTECHSTVEN FRONT STARTED JULY-30 WHAT LOOKS TO BE  
A LENGTHY SERIES OF ARTICLES CHARGING THAT THE "BULGARIAN  
CONNECTION" WAS A CIA FABRICATION AND THAT THE WESTERN  
SECRET SERVICES KNEW THE POPE WAS TO BE THE TARGET OF AN  
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

6. COMMENT: A SIGNED COMMENTARY IS A STEP BELOW A BTA  
DECLARATION, SUCH AS WAS ISSUED AFTER THE JUNE 28 HELMS  
AMENDMENT WAS PASSED. THE COMMENTARY BREAKS NEW GROUND  
FOR THE DOMESTIC READERSHIP, REVEALING MORE DETAILS ON  
ACCUSATIONS AGAINST BULGARIA THAN HAVE BEEN REVEALED PREVIOUSLY.  
LAKE  
END OF MESSAGE

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